

Appln. No. 10/766,384

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1824
Visteon Disclosure No. V203-0076**II. Remarks**

Claims 1-6 and 9-15 are pending. With the remarks provided below, the Applicants respectfully request for reconsideration and a withdrawal of all rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C § 102

Responsive to the rejections of claims 1-4 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2004/01199415 A1 to *Kapaan et al. ("Kapaan")*, *Kapaan* fails to teach each and every element of the subject matter as claimed in the present application. For example, claim 1 recites that "the inboard interface being configured for connecting to the shaft bell and the outboard interface being configured for connecting to the disk rotor" and that "the stepped boss and the roll formed face engaging the bearing assembly at the inboard and outboard ends to maintain the preload thereon when the detachable half shaft assembly is detached from the shaft bell or the disk rotor."

Contrarily, *Kapaan* fails to teach such limitations. For example, *Kapaan* merely teaches an axle stub 1 (e.g., see Figure 1 of *Kapaan*) having a screw-threaded end 5 and a tapered end 6 joining the screw-threaded end 5. On page 2 paragraph 2 of the Office action, the Examiner refers to reference numeral 1 (the axle stub 1) as an all-in-one shaft bell, a detachable half shaft, and a detachable body. "*Kapaan et al* disclose a detachable shaft assembly of a vehicle wheel end having a shaft bell (1) and a disc rotor (31), the detachable half shaft (1) comprising a preloaded bearing assembly having an inner surface formed through inboard and outboard ends thereof, and detachable body (1). . . ." (See page 2, paragraph 2 of Office action.) Clearly, the axle stub 1 in *Kapaan* does not comprise inboard and outboard interfaces wherein the inboard interface is configured for connecting to the shaft bell—the axle stub 1 is a unitary member.

Additionally, since the axle stub 1 in *Kapaan* is a unitary member, the axle stub 1 cannot be detached from the shaft bell as recited in claim 1. Thus, *Kapaan* does not teach the axle stub 1 comprising a stepped boss and a roll formed face that engage the bearing assembly at inboard and outboard ends to maintain the preload

BRINKS
HOFFER
GILSON
BLITZ

Appln. No. 10/766,384

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1824
Visteon Disclosure No. V203-0076

thereon when the detachable half shaft assembly is detached from the shaft bell or disk rotor as recited in the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

Responsive to the rejection of claims 5-6 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Kapaan* in view of *Wang*, the combination does not teach or suggest each and every element of each rejected claim. Moreover, claims 5 and 6 generally depend from claim 1, and claims 13-15 generally depend from claim 9. Thus, claim 5-6 and 13-15 are allowable for the reasons provided above. In addition, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify *Wang* or *Kapaan* to include the limitations recited in claims 5-6 and 13-15.

Thus, claims 1-6 and 9-15 are in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

January 18, 2006

Date

Lawrence G. Almeda (Reg. No. 46,151)